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266

TI, AND THE PRE-RAPHAELITES

lids, is conscious of a new world, as expressed in the last words of the 'Vita Nuova'—That blessed Beatrice who now gazeth continually on His countenance *qui est per omnia sæcula benedictus.*"

After his wife's death he could not stay in the house at Blackfriars, so full of sad memories, and removed to 16 Cheyne Walk, where for a time Swinburne, George Meredith, and his brother were with him as joint tenants.

He found distraction for his mind in filling his new home with art treasures of all descriptions. He did not follow the popular taste, but his own, and bought old furniture, bric-à-brac, Chinese and Japanese wares, everything that appealed to him. Indeed, the modern craze for "blue and white" porcelain and Japanese art may with some truth be said to owe its inspiration to him. Though he exhibited little in public, his work was highly appreciated by a number of wealthy connoisseurs, commissions came pouring in, and the decade from 1860 to 1870 is the most prolific part of his artistic career. He made money easily and spent it lavishly.

In 1869, his eyesight threatening to fail, he

267